

In the Claims:

Please withdraw Claim 29, and amend Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 14-16, 18-22, and 24-28 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A transgenic plant comprising in its genome an artificial genetic construct comprising a sense protein coding sequence and a promoter which promotes expression of the MinD protein coding sequence in cells of the plant, wherein: (a) expression of the sequence in the plant causes alteration in the size, shape and/or number of plastids in plant cells of the plant as compared to non-transgenic plants of the species, (b) the MinD protein encoded by the protein coding sequence ~~having~~ has at least 80% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO:2, and (c) the MinD protein includes sequences of amino acid residues which, when compared by sequence alignment to SEQ ID NO:2, are identical to residues 95 to 97 and 98 to 109 respectively of SEQ ID NO:2.
2. (Currently Amended) The plant of Claim 1, wherein the coding sequence is ~~selected from the group consisting of an Arabidopsis MinD protein coding sequence and a Tagetes MinD protein coding sequence.~~
3. (Previously Amended) A transgenic plant comprising in its genome an artificial genetic construct comprising a sense protein coding sequence and a promoter which promotes expression of the MinD protein coding sequence in cells of the plant, wherein expression of the sequence in the plant causes alteration in the size, shape and/or number of plastids in plant cells of the plant as compared to non-transgenic plants of the species, wherein the coding sequence is SEQ ID NO:1.
4. (Original) The plant of Claim 1, wherein the construct comprises in 5' to 3' order a CaMV 35S promoter, a MinD protein coding sequence, and an OCS terminator.
5. (Currently Amended) The plant of Claim 4, wherein the coding sequence is ~~selected from the group consisting of an Arabidopsis MinD protein coding sequence and a Tagetes MinD protein coding sequence.~~
6. (Currently Amended) The plant of Claim 4, wherein the coding sequence is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ SEQ ID NO:1.

7. (Original) The plant of Claim 1, wherein the plastids are chloroplasts.
8. (Original) An isolated DNA sequence comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Original) Seed of the plant of Claim 1.
- 11.-13. (Cancelled)
14. (Currently Amended) A plant seed comprising in its genome a genetic construct comprising a MinD protein coding sequence and a promoter, not natively associated with the MinD protein coding sequence, which promotes expression of the MinD protein coding sequence in the plant, wherein : (a) expression of the sequence in the plant causes alteration in the size, shape and/or number of plastids in plant cells of the plant as compared to nontransgenic plants of the species, (b) the MinD gene ~~encoding~~ encodes a protein having at least 80% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO:2, and (c) the MinD protein includes sequences of amino acid residues which, when compared by sequence alignment to SEQ ID NO:2, are identical to residues 95 to 97 and 98 to 109 respectively of SEQ ID NO:2.
15. (Currently Amended) The plant of Claim 14, wherein the coding sequence is ~~selected from the group consisting of an Arabidopsis MinD protein coding sequence and a Tagetes MinD protein coding sequence.~~
16. (Currently Amended) The plant of Claim 14, wherein the coding sequence is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ SEQ ID NO:1.
17. (Original) The plant of Claim 14, wherein the construct comprises in 5' to 3' order a CaMV 35S promoter, a MinD protein coding sequence, and an OCS terminator.

18. (Currently Amended) The plant of Claim 17, wherein the coding sequence is ~~selected from the group consisting of an Arabidopsis MinD protein coding sequence and a Tagetes MinD protein coding sequence.~~

19. (Currently Amended) The plant of Claim 17, wherein the coding sequence is ~~selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1.~~

20. (Currently Amended) A genetic construct comprising a MinD protein coding sequence in either a sense or antisense orientation and a promoter that promotes expression of the sequence in plants, the promoter not being natively associated with the protein coding sequence, the MinD gene encoding a protein having at least a 80% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO:2, and the MinD protein including sequences of amino acid residues which, when compared by sequence alignment to SEQ ID NO:2, are identical to residues 95 to 97 and 98 to 109 respectively of SEQ ID NO:2.

21. (Currently Amended) The construct of Claim 20, wherein the MinD protein coding sequence is ~~selected from the group consisting of an Arabidopsis MinD protein coding sequence and a Tagetes MinD protein coding sequence.~~

22. (Currently Amended) The construct of Claim 20, wherein the coding sequence is ~~selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1.~~

23. (Original) The construct of Claim 20, wherein the promoter is a CaMV 35S promoter.

24. (Currently Amended) A method for altering the size, shape and/or number of plastids in plant cells comprising the steps of constructing a genetic construct comprising a MinD protein coding sequence and a promoter, not natively associated with the MinD protein coding sequence, which promotes expression of the MinD protein coding sequence in plants, introducing the genetic construct into a plant, selecting a plant that has received a copy of the genetic construct, and growing the plant under conditions that allow expression of the gene, thereby producing a plant with altered size shape or number of plastids, the MinD gene encoding a protein having at least a 80% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO:2, the MinD protein including sequences of amino acid residues which, when compared by sequence alignment to SEQ ID NO:2, are identical to residues 95 to 97 and 98 to 109 respectively of SEQ ID NO:2.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 24, wherein the coding sequence is ~~selected from the group consisting of an Arabidopsis MinD protein coding sequence and a Tagetes MinD protein coding sequence.~~

26. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 24, wherein the coding sequence is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ SEQ ID NO:1.

27. (Currently Amended) A DNA sequence isolated from its native genome, the isolated DNA sequence comprising a plant MinD gene, the MinD gene encoding a protein having at least a 80% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO:2, the MinD protein encoded by the MinD gene including sequences of amino acid residues which, when compared by sequence alignment to SEQ ID NO:2, are identical to residues 95 to 97 and 98 to 109 respectively of SEQ ID NO:2.

28. (Currently Amended) The DNA sequence of Claim 27, wherein the DNA sequence is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ SEQ ID NO:1.

29. (Cancelled)